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AN
ANSWER

Returned to the
Letter from Legorn,

BY A
MERCHANT concerned in the SHIP.

Honest Ralph,

I Received yours, and having so considerable a Cargo a-board the endanger'd Vessel, communicated the sad news to most of the *Part-owners*, who are all not a little surprized, and 'tis believed most of the *Christian World* must be amazed to hear of such a desperate *Conspiracy*, which bids defiance to all the ancient maxims of policy; for a Plot once discovered, was ever heretofore look'd upon as prevented and defeated: But *This* it seems bears up and encreases, like some very *soul-suck*, that converts *weak and languid Medicines* into nourishment for the Disease. For besides the account given by you, we since understand from other hands, That this *Hellish Contrivance* hath a long time been fomented by the *Mahometan Faction*; That the *Algerines* under pretence of *Traffick* and *Amity* have maintain'd several *Spies* a-board amongst you, and afforded large *Pensions* to some eminent Officers to *debauch* them from their duty; particularly the *Purser*, who from a private *Tarpaulin*, in few months rais'd himself to incredible *favour* with the Captain, and a prodigious estate, hath been a most treacherous Villain, and by ill management much wasted the *Provisions* and *Stores* of the Ship; and though he be at present confined to the *Cabin*, yet pretends an Acquittance of all

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miscarriages under the Captains hand, and 'tis feared hath left too great an influence behind him: Besides, we hear that there are two pernicious Passengers a-board that lye in the great Cabbin, the one, an Algerine Woman, that sometimes pretends her self a kind of Sultaneſs, but is in truth the spurious iſſue of a baſe Muſſelman, and imagined to be an Enchanter, for that the ſpirit of inſatiation is her conſtant familiar. This Hag, 'tis ſaid, devours more Proviſions in a day than would ſerve the whole Ships Crew a month; the other a Renegado, formerly Steerſman of a Pinnace, in which 'tis ſaid, the Lieutenant ſaild at preſent; theſe are ſuppoſed to be great Remors to the Aſſembly of the general Council of Officers, being aſſiſted with a Chriſtian of Algiers, who ſeconds their deſtructive counſels.

But notwithstanding all this, and the apprehenſions you juſtly are in of danger, yet we hope the worſt is paſt; for we have ſolicited the whole Caſe to our Judge-Advocate, and conſulted ſeveral Learned Civilians, well ſkill'd in the Laws of Oleroon, and uſages of the Seas, intreating their beſt advice in this important Affair; from whom we have received the following Inſtructions, which I think fit to acquaint you with, that they may be communicated to the honeſt Sailors.

Before all things, 'tis adviſed, That notwithstanding all diſcouragements and jealousies, you continue ſtedfaſt in your obedience to the Captain, and by no means ſuffer your ſelves by indiſcreet zeal, or frightful amusements, to be hurried in to any undutiſul behaviour or mutiny; hearken not to any malicious whiſpers, either of the Mahumetans, Algerines, or Mungrel-Chriſtians, whoſe only deſign is to raiſe diſturbances, and make you acceſſary (if they could) to the Captains juſt ſeverities. 'Tis well known, that when formerly he travelled the Mahumetan Regions, he bravely maintained the Chriſtian Faith, and would not ſuffer himſelf to be ſeduced by any temptations of the Infidels; his Father likewise dyed a Martyr for the true Religion, and nothing but the moſt miſchievous malice, can imagine that he can be prevailed with now to connive at their impious Idolatries; you know how great an Intereſt he hath in the Ship more than any, and that thoſe that endeavour to betray you, aim likewise at his life. Let this conſideration ſecure your fears, and perſwade you to

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wait with patience; though to some over-heated spirits he seem not so violent in prosecuting the Conspirators, yet the necessary care and zeal he hath already shown, demonstrates the sincerity of his intentions. Remember, when our great Masters followers were so rash as to call for fire from heaven, he told them they knew not what spirit they were of. Your Captain's great Command furnishes him with better means from the fore-castle to foresee impendent dangers; and no doubt when he finds affairs brought to a crisis, will strike home, and redeem the delay by the severity of the Blow.

It will yet not be inconvenient, That by all due and lawful means all the faithful Sailors should in an humble manner address and make application to the Captain; To remonstrate their dangers, and possess him with a right apprehension of things; it being part of their duty by their solemn vow when first they entered into the service, to discover to him all private Conspiracies that shall fall within the verge of their knowledge. For 'tis not impossible that some of the grand Conspirators or their Confederates may so besiege his ears, and misrepresent the state of affairs, and the true end of the Loyal Seamen's applications, that without such repeated Instances and Importunities, he may mistake his Friends for his Enemies, which is the greatest misfortune that can befall any Commander.

As for the *Algerines* you mention, they are known to be the general pest of Christendom, the common Enemies of mankind; neither good Christians nor yet true Mahometans; a sort of Fanatick Mungrels, who within these few years under a most Christian name have spilt more Christian Blood than was shed in the Ten primitive Persecutions. And though 'tis true they pretend to embrace and advance the *Alchoran*, yet indeed they value it no further than 'tis subservient to their Secular Interest; so that the *Muflin* himself is afraid of them, and all his petty *Hodgfa's* (or inferior Priests) are forced to truckle (as much as their own wooden-shoo'd Peasants, the most sneaking slaves in Europe) to their absolute Tyranny. Nor is there any regard to be made of their most solemn Vows or Alliances. Some years since they entered into a confederacy offensive and defensive, first with the Republick of *Boggland*, against the mighty Monarch of *Oteana*. After that, shifting sides with the *Oteanian Monarch*, against the

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Bogglers; but truly I envy neither; only bubbled both, advanced their own *Grandeur*, increased the number of their *Gallies*, and learnt their *Slaves* more dextrously to handle their *Oars*, and manage Navigation as well in the *Mediterranean* as the *Narrow Seas*. How many *Christian Temples* have they since demolished! How many *Pyramids* have they committed to *Flames*? How many *Leagues* have they violated! How many affronts have they offered! Yet still these mischievous *Apes* in some Countries pass for *Birds of Paradise*. These Villains that understand occasion the disturbances in your *Ship*, and abet the *Conspirators*; but had our *Captain* briskly fallen upon them three or four years ago in their *harbour*, he might most probably have fired these *Nests of Hornets*, and prevented the general mischief that now threatens the *Christians* from their *overgrown Grandeur*. We therefore advise you most seriously, That you entertain no *Treaty* or *Correspondence* with these perfidious *Regentissims*. The time was when half your number would not only have baffled them at *Sea*, but routed them on *Land*, and planted *St. George's Ensigns* on the tops of the highest Towers in *Algiers*. Courage I know is not yet wanting; nor shall, I hope, *Cowardice* be lacking. We have a brave able *Commander*, though now under a cloud (the *Sun* you know may be *eclipsed*), but emerges, as to more admiring eyes, so with greater luster) that has given signal proofs of his *Abilities*, and made the *Restalliers* at once admire (though they durst not imitate) his *Valour* for them, and dread if ever it should be employed against them. Be it *He*, or be it *who else* that the *Captain* shall please (according to his *Commission*) to order to manage *Affairs*, and carry on the War against these pestilent *Barbarians*, we do not question but in short time to have a good account of that *Expedition*. I shall not enlarge at present, intending to give you a fuller Account of my thoughts by the next I remain,

Yours,

L. F.